

Search

[Building / Electric / Plumbing Permits](#)

[Food & Sanitary](#)

[Zoning](#)

[Housing](#)

[Codes & Maps](#)

[Online Permit Program Help](#)

[About Us](#)

Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

[Administrative Exemption Request Form](#)

[Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Questions](#)

[Outdoor Lighting - File a Complaint](#)

[Outdoor Lighting Plan](#)

[Links - Other Sources of Information](#)

[Inspectional Services](#) > Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

Outdoor Lighting Ordinance



Objectives of Ordinance

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate outdoor lighting in the city, the intent being to permit an amount of outdoor lighting that is appropriate to allow for the safe use and enjoyment of outdoor areas, while also mitigating potential nuisance in the form of light trespass and glare to abutters and the public at large, reducing light pollution and promoting energy conservation.

Lighting Best Practices

Adequate lighting in the city ensures people can go out after dark but excessive lighting can have negative impacts such as light trespass, glare, light pollution and wasting energy. Sensible lighting practices make good lighting AND good neighbors! Good lighting achieves the following:

- Promotes safety and security in our neighborhoods.
- Preserves and enhances neighborhood character.
- Reduces or prevents light from spilling onto neighboring properties.
- Promotes energy conservation and saves money.
- Enhances the night-sky beauty.
- Improves the quality of life for people and wildlife

For more information about the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, frequently asked questions, Good Neighbor Lighting Brochure, sample lighting plan; to file a complaint; to apply for an Administrative Exemption; or other resources, please click on the LINKS in the menu on the left-side of this page.

How Can We Help You?

Contractors

Select your industry ▼

Residents, Tenants, & Students

Select a Task ▼



Inspectional Services Department

831 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge MA 02139

Phone: 617-349-6100

Fax: 617-349-6132

TDD: 617-349-6112

[Contact Us](#)

Hours

Monday: 8:00am-8:00pm

Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00am-5:00pm

Friday: 8:00am-1:00pm

Counter Hours:

Monday: 8:00am - 9:30am

4:30pm - 6:30pm

Tuesday - Thursday:

8:00am - 9:30am

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Friday: 8:00am - 9:30am

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Record Room Hours:

Monday: 8:00am - 12:00pm

1:00pm - 7:00pm

Tuesday - Thursday:

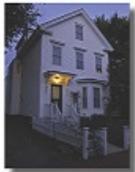
8:00am - 12:00pm

1:00pm - 4:30pm

Friday: 8:00am - 1:00pm

Good Neighbor Lighting

Lighting Requirements and Practices in Cambridge.



Photos by Jeffrey Berg



City of Cambridge

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OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE